* France had conquered the southern portion of vietname (Cochin-China) in the 1860s when central part Annam and northern part Tonkin remained tributaries to China
* Activity in Tonkin afterwards mainly initiative of Frenchmen on the spot
* 1873 vietnamese sought prevention of illegal export of salt into china from Tonkin by French merchant Dupuis
* Dupuis seized Hanoi port and appealed to admiral Dupre, governor of Cochin-China for aid
* Dupre said to establish ourselves in rich country bordering china is question of life and death for future rule in far east
* Paris cautioned him not to cause complications
* Still sent force to Hanoi in August 1873 ostensibly to evict dupuis
* But French troops saw Vietnamese weak, so seized Tonkin
* Dupre was killed in December in Vietnam by a former Chinese rebel leader employed by Vietnamese
* Paris asserted herself, ordered withdrawal
* But treaty with Chinese in 1874 permitted trade and small garrisons to continue in trading ports in Tonkin; in order to dissolve link with china, provided that Vietnam would apply to france for protection if needed
* 1882 french gov permitted secret reinforcement of French garrison in Tonkin to pacify pirates
* Troops seized Hanoi in April 1882
* Minister of Navy and Colonies prodded cabinet into setting up protectorate over Vietnam
* Chinese sent troops to assist Vietnam, but risk too great, so negotiated settlement with French minister Fournier
* 1883 treaty signed, recognized French interests in Tonkin and opened kuangsi and Yunnan provinces to French trade
* But war party in peking forbade Chinese forces to evacuate Tonkin after defeating French forces in Hanoi—french reinforced troops, asked for indemnities, china declared war on france
* August 1883 king of annam, doubtful of Chinese protection, accepted French protectorate
* 1884-5 france gained territory in Tonkin and Formosa but eventually defeated, china regained all territory lost in Tonkin
* Ferry overthrown in france
* In spite of china’s success, peace treaty signed whereby French protectorate over annam recognized—did so because if war with france spread, dangers would follow and Japanese activity in korea simultaneously threatening
* Li hung chang encouraged korea to enter treaties with western powers as protection against Russia and japan, felt korea’s observance of ceremonies towards Chinese dynasty not likely to be changed by treaties with west
* Koreans encouraged to conclude treaties with England and Germany
* After sino-japanese clashes over korea, England 1885 suddenly occupied port Hamilton, harbour 2 islands off Korean coast—because of outbreak of pendjeh crisis between great Britain and Russia over Afghanistan, as war seemed likely, admiralty decided to occupy port as naval base
* Informal entente developed between England and china against Russia, france and japan until sino-japanese war of 1894 when England abandoned china
* Afghanistan tensions eased between Britain and Russia near summer 1885, sino-french skirmish had ceased, seemed okay
* But tensions stayed because of suspicion of russia’s interests
* Russia had wanted east asian territory ever since north of Manchuria and Vladivostok obtained—Vladivostok closed by ice 4 months/year, so wanted open harbour for naval base
* Korea had excellent harbours
* Russia brought pressure on china, tempted Koreans with offers of aid and threatened to seize Korean port in retaliation for british occupation of port Hamilton, same time began negotiations with china on joint guarantee of Korean independence, china didn’t agree
* England withdrew from port Hamilton 1886 after Russia said no more ambition in korea
* Russia started trans-siberian railroad 1891—alarmed Japanese and Chinese
* 1894 sino-japanese war over korea
* Japan won, 1895, tried to assure GB and Russia she would not annex Korean territory, but balance of power would be disturbed if china collapsed
* Russia, france and germany decided to intervene
* Japan insisted on complete independence of korea, and for japan to receive Formosa, Pescadores islands and southern tip of Manchuria containing port Arthur—GB approved, Japanese new commercial privileges would be automatically extended to other powers, japan better obstacle to Russian ambitions than china
* But Russia (too weak to seize Chinese territory before Siberian railway done), France (russia’s ally since 1894) and Germany (who feared partition of china would be attempted without her) joined together in ‘inviting’ japan to give up south Manchuria
* If japan refused, Russia would bombard Japanese ports and pose as savior of china
* Japan capitulated in return for larger indemnity
* Three powers squabbled over opportunity to lend money to china
* Russia gained privileged position of administering her revenues
* Germany resentful that german bankers had been jilted from lucrative loan, but welcomed Russia’s diversion from European affairs
* Scramble for china commenced, characterized by gaining spheres of influence (areas where concessions for railways, mines, telegraphs, favoured trade positions and leased naval bases or commerce areas obtained)
* France 1895 forced upon china border settlement on Tonkin, three new frontier stations opened to trade, reductions made in china’s tariffs, china agreed to apply first to france for help in exploiting mines, agreement on French railways and telegraphs into china
* GB possessed bulk of trade and influence in south china, most threatened by French move, made agreement with france to share privileges gained in southern provinces of china
* 1896 GB got agreement to proposals on china-burma border, right to extend railway into china from there—as compensation for Chinese concession to france
* France’s turn 1897 to get compensation for concession to GB—right to extend Chinese railway and priority to exploit mines in southern provinces (threatened to stop payment on Japanese indemnity loan)
* 1896 russia signed agreement with china on trans-siberian railway direct line in north Manchuria, secret defence alliance against japan, railway built by russo-chinese bank on 80 year lease, Chinese eastern railway organized under this bank—so-called private company, but shares all owned by Russian gov, organization used to develop Russian control in north
* Germany eager to gain naval and commercial base as germany dependent on british hong kong for coal and supplies in far east—1897, 2 german missionaries killed in Shantung, german squadron sent to Kiao-chow port to occupy it and threaten reprisals, 1898 germany received kiao-chow bay lease, where she built military and naval base of tsingtau, and rights to build railways and develop mines in whole province—shantung all but german protectorate in name
* China approached Russia for loan to finance third instalment of Japanese indemnity, Russians asked for harbour lease on yellow sea—port and connections to Manchurian coast, china tried to evade pressure, turned to Britain for loan
* Britain asked for rights that would let her safeguard british sphere in central china and counter france in south china
* Britain alarmed at Russian threat in north, opened anglo-russian talks on trade and industrial development in china, Russia gave no reassurances on equal commercial opportunities in any new Russian sphere, and 1989 demanded port Arthur, talien and railway rights from china
* Britain sent warships to port Arthur, were Russians had occupied it, but china yielded lease to port Arthur, and Britain decided war over this was stupid
* Instead GB asked for lease to Weihaiwei, port opposite port Arthur in Shantung—japanese had occupied it, but handed it over when GB assured them no moves against japan from port
* Other powers didn’t want to be excluded—france demanded kuangchow bay in south 1898, demanded china not cede provinces in French sphere of south china to any other country, and further construction rights
* 1899 italians demanded sanmen bay, but china rejected this
* Rivalry of Russia, Britain, france and germany in china inspired by fears of advantages gained by competitors in exploitation of the country
* Franco-belgian syndicate backed by russo-chinese bank obtained railway rights in british sphere of central china, british bank obtained railway rights in Manchuria and other railway construction rights
* 1899 growing clash between interests led GB and Russia to sign agreement to respect each other’s spheres and not support other powers’ entry into them
* Continued Russian expansion into Manchuria after boxer rebellion led to anglo-japanese alliance of 1902